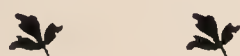




WESTON=SUPER=MARE

Urban District Council.



# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1900.





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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1900.

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*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.*

GENTLEMEN,

From the Registrar's returns I find that during the year 1900 319 births (149 males and 170 females) were registered in the district, giving a birth-rate of 20·10 per thousand of the population (census 1891) — viz., 15,869, or 16·35 per thousand of the estimated present population of 19,500. The number of births for 1899 was the same as for 1900.

During the same period the deaths of 289 persons (138 males and 151 females) were registered in the district, being an increase of 5 on the number in 1899, and giving a death-rate of 18·21 per 1000 of the population (census 1891), or 14·82 per 1000 of the estimated present population.

Forty-nine, or 16·9 per cent. of the deaths recorded, were of children under one year of age,

and 110, or 38 per cent., of persons aged 65 years and upwards, viz., 26 between 65 and 70, 41 between 70 and 80, 40 between 80 and 90, and 3 between 90 and 100 years of age, giving an average of 75 years and 7 months.

The deaths registered from the principal zymotic diseases number 16, as against 18 in 1899, and give a death-rate of 1·08 per 1000 of the population (census 1891), 0·8 per 1000 of the estimated present population.

To show the localities in which the deaths occurred, I have divided the town into the four Ecclesiastical Districts, viz.:

<i>District.</i>	<i>Population.</i> <i>(Census 1891.)</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1000</i>
Trinity .....	1272	13	10·1
St. John's.....	4285	70	16·3
Emmanuel .....	4661	101	21·6
Christ Church ...	5651	105	18·5
	<u>15869</u>	<u>289</u>	

The list of deaths includes 18 in the General Hospital, 3 in the Statutory Hospital, 23 amongst visitors, and 17 requiring the Coroner's inquisition; as against 12, 1, 26 and 13 respectively in 1899.

The following table shows the number of deaths from all causes, and those from the seven principal zymotic diseases for the past ten years:

<i>Deaths from all causes:—</i>									
1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
257	262	253	206	282	243	234	263	284	289
<i>Deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases:—</i>									
5	33	11	15	9	15	17	27	18	16



During the year 119 Notifications of Infectious Diseases were received, of which 75 were of Scarlatina, 17 of Diphtheria, 11 of Enteric Fever, and 16 of Erysipelas.

**Small-Pox.**—No case occurred in the district.

**Scarlatina.**—Seventy-five cases were notified—17 in the first, 20 in the second, 15 in the third, and 23 in the fourth quarters respectively. The disease generally was of a mild type. Thirty-four were reported from Christ Church, 21 from Emmanuel, 13 from St. John's, and 7 from Trinity districts. Eight of the cases occurred in a school, and 6 in a private residence in the Christ Church district, and many were clearly traceable to importation. No death is returned from this complaint. Forty-five of the cases were removed to the Statutory Hospital and 3 to the infectious wards of the General Hospital.

**Diphtheria.**—Seventeen cases were reported—6 in the first, 4 in the second, 2 in the third, and 5 in the fourth quarters respectively. Seven occurred in the Christ Church, 6 in Emmanuel, 3 in St. John's, and 1 in Trinity districts. Defective sanitary arrangements were responsible for some of the cases, which defects were remedied as soon as possible. Six cases were admitted into the ward for this disease at the Statutory Hospital, and 2 to the infectious ward of the General Hospital. Five deaths are due to this disease.

**Enteric Fever.**—Eleven cases were notified, 3 of which were traceable to importation as occurring in the persons of visitors, and 2 to defective house drainage. Five of the cases were admitted into the General Hospital.

**Diarrhœa** was prevalent during the third quarter, and four deaths are due to this complaint in children under one year of age. It was undoubtedly connected with the excessive atmospheric heat which prevailed, such continued high temperature being specially favourable to the decomposition of milk and other articles of food, as well as to the formation of injurious gases, and thus producing toxic symptoms, especially in the young.

**Measles** was prevalent in the second quarter, and 5 deaths are due to this complaint in children under 5 years of age. This disease is not notified in the district.

**Influenza** is responsible for 6 deaths in the persons of the aged, in the early part of the year.

In my last report I stated that a piece of land had been secured for a new Isolation Hospital, and that your Council was in negotiation for an additional two acres adjoining. I am pleased to hear that the purchase has been completed, and that the question of erecting the new building will shortly receive your attention.

I would again bring before your notice the importance of early action being taken with

regard to the drainage of the eastern portion of your district, and of the adjoining village of Milton; and it is satisfactory to note that you contemplate extending the boundary of your district so as to include a portion of that parish, the effectual drainage of which will prevent any liability of the contamination of the source of your water supply. The contemplated extension of the water supply to Milton and Worle will be decidedly beneficial to the health of those places.

The improvements which have been carried out to the Cattle Market will enable the premises to be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, as also the recent improvements to the public and private slaughter-houses.

The erection of lavatories, etc., about to be commenced on the Sea Front, will be a great convenience to Weston's many visitors, and the extension of the bathing accommodation at Knightstone will be a source of pleasure and healthy recreation to residents and visitors alike.

I am pleased to know that you have decided to appoint a Sanitary Inspector who will devote the whole of his time to his office. This will enable much more time for supervision to be given to the many important and needful details of the office.

It is satisfactory to note, amongst other matters, that the demand for the Surveyor's sanitary certificate for dwelling-houses is on the increase, also that many new sewers have been constructed,



and several public sewer ventilators have been erected during the year ; also that the removal of house refuse, and the scavenging and cleansing of roads and footways have been carried out in the usual satisfactory manner.

I have satisfaction in noting that there was no failure of water during the dry season through which we passed, which is evidence of the great value of the springs and the volume of available water. Few towns are favoured with such an excellent and pure supply, and too much care cannot be taken to keep it uncontaminated.

An important matter, on which I have more than once advised your Council, is the provision of a public disinfecting chamber, and which I am pleased to know is now under your immediate consideration. I trust before many weeks to find the town adequately furnished with a modern and complete building for this purpose.

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4 (which I append) are tabulated statements of the deaths registered, and of the sickness in the district, classified according to diseases, ages and localities.

I also append a report showing particulars of sanitary work done by your Inspector, and likewise a statement of patients admitted to the Statutory Hospital, as supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Smith, the master and matron.

In conclusion, I may add that systematic inspection of the district has been made, and all



insanitary conditions and ordinary nuisances, as soon as they were discovered, received immediate attention ; while those localities in which zymotic diseases appeared were specially and carefully watched, and their hygienic requirements attended to.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CHAS. VERNON HITCHINS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*February 8th, 1901.*

**TABLE I.**  
**WESTON SUPER MARE URBAN DISTRICT.**

YEAR.	Popu-lation estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1890	15,500	342	22.06	47	137.4	282	18.09	17	22		260	16.77
1891	15,869	342	21.55	43	125.7	257	16.20	17	21		236	14.87
1892	16,150	310	19.18	49	157.4	262	16.22	13	24		238	14.73
1893	16,500	321	19.45	45	140.1	253	15.33	15	25		228	13.81
1894	16,800	331	19.70	29	87.6	206	12.26	23	17		189	11.25
1895	17,300	316	18.26	40	126.5	282	16.30	26	22		260	15.02
1896	17,600	332	18.86	43	129.5	243	13.80	20	23		220	12.50
1897	18,000	317	18.72	39	123.0	234	13.00	14	20		214	17.44
1898	18,500	337	18.21	43	127.5	263	14.32	22	21		242	13.08
1899	19,000	319	16.78	44	137.9	284	14.88	16	26		258	13.57
Averages for years 1890-1899	171,219	326.7	19.27	42.2	129.26	256.6	15.04	18.3	22.1		234.5	14.3
1900	19,500	319	16.35	49	150.4	289	14.82	21	23		266	13.64

\* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ...	2,770	Total population at all ages ...	15,869
		Number of inhabited houses ...	2,500
		Average number of persons per house ...	6

At Census of 1891.

TABLE II.

DISTRICT—WESTON-SUPER-MARE URBAN.				
	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1890 ...	15,500	342	282	47
1891 ...	15,869	342	257	43
1892 ...	16,150	310	262	49
1893 ...	16,500	321	253	45
1894 ...	16,800	331	206	29
1895 ...	17,300	316	282	40
1896 ...	17,600	332	243	43
1897 ...	18,000	317	234	39
1898 ...	18,500	337	263	43
1899 ...	19,000	319	284	44
Averages of Years 1890 to 1899. ...	171,219	326·7	256·6	42·2
1900 ...	19,500	319	289	49

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900 in the  
Weston-super-Mare Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.	NUMBER OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITALS FROM EACH LOCALITY.	
	At all Ages.	Statutory Hospital.	General Hospital.
Diphtheria ...	17	6	2
Erysipelas ...	16		
Scarlet Fever ...	75	45	3
Enteric Fever ...	11		5
Totals ...	119	51	10

**TABLE IV.**  
**WESTON-SUPER-MARE URBAN DISTRICT.**  
**Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1900**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	General Hospital.	Statutory Hospital.	
Measles	5	1	4					2	3	5
Diphtheria and membranous croup	5		4	1		2				
Enteric Fever	2					2	4			
Epidemic Influenza	6					2				
Diarrhoea. (See notes at foot.)	4	4								
Phthisis	15				4	10	1			1
Bronchitis	33	5	5			6	17	1		1
Pneumonia	12			1		4	7	1		2
Heart Diseases	34	1		1	3	11	18	2		2
Accidents	3					1	2	2		10
All other causes	170	38	6	3	5	57	61	10		
All causes	289	49	19	6	12	93	110	18	3	21

The deaths of residents occurring beyond the limits of the district are to be included in this table, and deaths of non-residents occurring in the district are to be excluded. *See* note on Table I. as to meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents."

Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars, and, in addition, to be classified under "Public Institutions."

Under the heading of "Diarrhoea" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhoea, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from Epidemic Enteritis; Zymotic Enteritis; Epidemic Diarrhoea; Summer Diarrhoea; Dysentery and Dysenteric Diarrhoea; Choleraic Diarrhoea, Cholera, Cholera Nosas (in the absence of Asiatic Cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis and Gastric catarrh unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhoea."

Deaths from Diarrhoea secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I, II, III and IV, attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

*Date, February 8th, 1901.*  
 CHAS. VERNON HITCHINS, *Medical Officer of Health.*



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT for 1900.

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*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report and Summary of Sanitary Work carried out during the past year, from which you will see that the sanitary condition has been improved, especially in respect of those districts which represent the oldest parts of the town.

Those districts where the sanitary arrangements were obsolete and not in a satisfactory condition have been inspected, the owners notified as to the improvements required, and in 173 cases the necessary works have been carried out. The fixing of flushing cisterns to the w.c.'s of cottage property has been continued, and the reduced water rate greatly facilitates this work, and is much appreciated by the occupiers, and during the year 123 cisterns were fixed.

The sanitary accommodation of various hotels and refreshment houses has had my attention, and in 12 cases the requirements and improvements found necessary have been carried out.

The general public, as a rule, co-operate in keeping the town in a good sanitary condition, as intending purchasers, or tenants, will not purchase, or occupy, before the smoke test has been applied, and 195 tests have been made, exclusive of new houses, of which 120 have been tested under the supervision of your Building Inspector.

House to house inspection has been carried on, and 263 tenements have been examined and specially reported upon, and this was greatly facilitated through the temporary assistance given me in the commencement of the year.

This being my last report as your Sanitary Inspector, may I express my indebtedness and thanks for the consideration and kindness shown to me during the many years I have had the privilege of working in my present capacity, which I shall shortly relinquish, and any service which I may be able to render at any future time I shall be pleased to do so.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. HILLMAN,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

# SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

for the Year ending December 31st, 1900.

Accumulation of offensive matters removed	-	-	47
Drains cleansed and repaired	-	-	71
Foul Closets and Privies cleansed	-	-	82
Sinks trapped outside	-	-	40
New Drains constructed (to old houses)	-	-	125
Soil Pipes and Drains ventilated	-	-	98
Drains tested with the Smoke Machine	-	-	195
Special Sanitary Inspection of Premises	-	-	263
Sanitary defects reported and referred to the Action of the Town Surveyor	-	-	29
Number of Premises received Sanitary Certificates	-		14
Rooms and Premises Fumigated	-	-	99
Premises Limewashed and Cleansed	-	-	18
Pig and Fowl nuisances abated	-	-	2
Overcrowding cases abated	-	-	4
Miscellaneous Nuisances abated	-	-	17
Notices served to remedy sanitary defects	-	-	300
Notices served to remedy water wastes and leakages	-		103
New connections to Town Water Supply	-	-	120
1 Polluted Well closed and Town Water laid on	-		1
Goods destroyed—1 bed, bedding and clothes			
„ „ —1 carcase of unsound Pork 1 carcase of unsound Mutton			2
Legal Proceedings taken and Convictions obtained	-		4

The usual Inspection of Bake-houses, Common Lodging-houses, Slaughter-houses, Milk Shops and Dairies has been made, and the necessary Cleansing and Limewashing carried out.

H. HILLMAN,

Sanitary Inspector to the Urban District Council,  
Weston-super-Mare.

STATUTORY HOSPITAL.

Statement of Patients admitted to Hospital  
during the year 1900.

							Total.
In Hospital December 30th, 1899	-	-	-	-	-	2	} 52
Admitted during 1900	-	-	-	-	-	50	
as follows :							
Scarlatina	-	-	-	-	-	45	} 52
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	6	
Observation	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Discharged	-	-	-	-	-	41	} 52
Died	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Remaining in Hospital December 30th, 1900	-	-	-	-	-	8	
Average number of weeks in Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	6 weeks	
Number of weeks in Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	312	,,
Number of days in Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	2184 days	

We are, Gentlemen,

Obediently yours,

JOHN & ELLA SMITH.



# TOWN OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

## METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

The following remarks on the weather of 1900 have been furnished me by Mr. W. E. Perrett, official observer to the Meteorological Society:—

The year opened with two extremely wet months, there being only 6 fine days in January. In February there were 10 fine days. Snow fell to the depth of 6 inches on the 14th. March was a very dry month, there being only 6 wet days. On April 1st the Campbell Stokes Sunshine Recorder, presented to the town by Mr. J. J. Jackson Barstow, was used, and during the month 152 hours sunshine were recorded. May was another dry month, there being 21 fine days. During June a maximum thermometer for the sun was fixed on the Town Hall, and the hottest day recorded was July 18th, when the instrument registered 141 degrees; but during a thunderstorm on July 27th the thermometer burst. It was replaced during October.

The rainfall during the year was 28·52 inches, which is 2 inches above the average for the past ten years. On Dec. 30th, rain fell to the depth of  $1\frac{1}{3}$  inches—the greatest fall in one day since 1895.

The mean maximum temperature for the year was 57·4 : mean minimum, 46·2.

## METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Month.	Maximum in Shade, Highest.	Date.	Minimum in Shade, Lowest.	Date.	Rainfall, Most in 24 hours.	Date.	Total Rainfall for the month.	Total hours Sunshine.	Greatest Daily amount.	Date.	Days on which Sun shone.	Sunless days.	Maximum in Sun, Highest.	Date.
					inch		inch		hrs.					
January - -	51·5	22	30·5	6	1	7	3·31							
February - -	55	24	21·5	9	0·48	15	4·76							
March - - -	58	11	26	18	0·20	22	0·73							
April - - -	73	22	32	2	0·44	4	1·10	152	12	20 & 28	24	6		
May - - -	65	28	38	17	0·35	23	1·75	232	14	25	27	4		
June - - -	80	11	47	2	0·29	25	1·98	245½	13½	10, 11 & 18	30	0	129	29
July - - -	86	12	52	16	0·41	28	1·21	308½	16½	10	31	0	141	18
August - - -	83	15	50	11	0·56	1	2·29	214¼	14	12	30	1		
September -	73·9	17	40·5	20	0·21	1	0·71	182½	12	5	28	2		
October - -	70	9	37	22	0·73	30	3·17	145	9	8, 9 & 15	29	2	105	25
November -	55·5	13	33	11 & 19	0·52	25	3·25	73½	7	3 & 28	22	8	96	3
December -	56·5	9	31·5	23	1·75	30	4·61	27½	4	27	13	18	83	27

